



**Minutes of the D-E NCA Advisory Council
August 21, 2013, 3:00--6:00 p.m.
Bill Heddles Recreation Center, Delta, CO**

(Revised 9/4/2013)

Council members attending: Katie Steele, Joe Neuhof, Mike Wilson, Oscar Massey, Bill Harris, Steven Boyle, Doug Atchley, and Tamera Minnick.

Council members absent: Terry Kimber and Steve Acquafresca.

BLM staff attending: Katie Stevens, Andy Windsor, Collin Ewing, Sam Staley, and Marie Lawrence.

Members of the public attending: K. Heruichel, J. Potterveld, Phil Hanceford, Craig Grother, Sherry Schenk, Mary Shea, Justin Clifton, Janice Shepherd, Kate Graham, Chris Miller, Emily Hornback, Betty Oglesby, Austin Massey, Sarah Sauter, James Waugh, Dale Kimber, Bruce Hovde, Cathy Spencer, Eric Rechel, Dick Miller, and others.

Call to order and introductory remarks

3:00 p.m.: Chair Katie Steele called the meeting to order and initiated introductions.

Collin Ewing: (Thanked public for coming out and spending valuable time with BLM and Advisory Council). Some background: I am the new NCA manager. The Dominguez-Escalante NCA was designated as a national conservation area in the Omnibus Act of 2009 , which also designated the Wilderness. The NCA was withdrawn from mineral laws, so will not have uranium or coal mining or oil and gas development. (Listed some of the purposes of the NCA).

Act directed BLM to develop resource management plan (RMP) and advisory council of 10 citizens representative of purposes and uses. Formed in 2010, the Advisory Council is advising BLM on how to develop the RMP. The BLM also held public meetings to find out how the public would like to see lands managed. BLM is also consulting with other agencies. The draft RMP has five different proposed management strategies to direct how the NCA will protect the NCA's purposes.

The draft plan deadline for comments has been extended to September 23. The BLM will go back to the Council to look at all comments and discuss, and to develop the proposed plan, which will be different from the draft Preferred Alternative and could be a combination of bits and pieces from the five alternatives. Expect to complete the record of decision and final plan in late 2014. Appreciate everyone's involvement.

Steele: This is the fifth meeting to discuss specific topics. These are our last two topics; we covered these in Grand Junction and here too because of public interest. We are discussing variances between Advisory Council recommendations and the BLM's Preferred Alternative [Alternative E]. (Went through agenda). When making a comment, come forward and state your name before commenting. Council members should try to refrain from speaking so more people can comment. The Council has a Gmail account [dencaadvisorycouncil@gmail.com]. This account should not be used for submitting comments about the RMP; make those directly to the BLM.

Council discussion: recreational use

Bill Harris: A lot of what is in the recreation section guides how travel and trail use will be managed. These two topics are related. The Council went through this discussion on Monday. For the sake of expediency, I will review quickly, starting with NCA-wide issues, then specific areas, like Gunnison Slopes and Cactus Park (north). If familiar with RMP, the matrix starts on Page 108. (Also referenced Page 118, Appendices J and L, and Figure/Map 2-8e). On some topics, the Advisory Council made recommendations that are different from what's in the draft.

The Preferred Alternative proposes banning target shooting in just 10,000 acres, for health and safety. None of this has anything to do with hunting, which is allowed throughout the NCA as regulated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW). The Council split 50-50 on this issue: those who favored safe traditional use, and those who were concerned about safety and deterring visitors not used to gunshots. Also, the Council noted that there was a significant amount of trash associated with target shooting. Glass bottles: The Council said ban; the draft plan does not. The Council understands that it has to do with the enforceability of a ban. The Council has no consensus on that.

The draft plan calls for virtual geocaching only; the Council said only restrict geocaching to virtual in Wilderness. The BLM's rationale for restricting NCA to virtual geocaching is to prevent social trailing and protect cultural resources.

Tamera Minnick: Could the BLM restrict geocaches to somewhere that wouldn't be damaged by people going into it? Any other way to manage beside making those two distinctions?

Katie Stevens: The National Park Service requires a permit for geocaching.

Steele: [Physical] geocaching is [generally] not allowed in the national parks. Most geocaches are intentionally dispersed so not easy for others to find.

Ewing: We are getting educated on geocaching. I went and looked at some geocaches and didn't find social trails, but we're looking for more comments from the public and the Council to help determine where to go on this issue.

Joe Neuhof/Steve Boyle: Social trailing occurs regardless of whether geocaching is virtual or physical.

Ewing: To put something in the Wilderness would be considered trammeling.

(More discussion about geocaching and its impacts and educating the public)

Harris: Council has some questions about resolving conflicts: How would that be done in ERMA versus SRMAs?

Andy Windsor: In an ERMA, recreation management is centered on protecting activities. For example, in an ATV ERMA area, we will have all types of motorized use, so we separate these uses. In an SRMA, we are trying to protect user experiences.

Harris: In the Hunting Ground area, there aren't a lot of discrepancies between what's in the draft RMP and what the Council recommended, except the Council would like to establish additional access at a point north of Bridgeport road. The draft RMP calls for a Gunnison River SRMA for boating. The Council has no problem with that. The Council recommended no camping at mouth of Dominguez Canyon, because it's a bottleneck and is heavily impacted by a variety of different types of users. The plan calls for permit system, which gives preference to boaters.

The draft RMP proposes no motorized river use from May 1 to October 1; the Advisory Council recommends September 1 instead of October 1 to allow for duck hunters. The draft plan places an emphasis on boaters.

Ewing: We are looking at that as an SRMA for boating and associated camping and hiking. It's important for people to be able to do that; we would limit camping to designated campsites. I guess we still need to think about who we're targeting and who we're managing for.

Neuhof: Will the BLM establish a fee permit system?

Stevens: That depends on what people want. In Ruby Canyon, people wanted to see a greater enforcement presence.

Windsor: To keep it orderly, you need a reservation system.

Tamera Minnick: For the McClinnis Canyons NCA, we spent weeks discussing this. One of the sticking points was private versus commercial use. We used past history to determine future ratios. Did the BLM think about this for Dominguez?

Windsor: Yes; we talked about commercial use versus private use at mouth of Dominguez Canyon and how to divvy up commercial campsites versus private.

Minnick: Fifty percent seems like a lot for commercial use.

Windsor: We think we're reaching that point where Ruby Canyon was ten years ago. We're starting to see some pressure, especially at the mouth of the canyon.

Minnick: I don't see very many details about how the river would be managed.

Windsor: I need to know what kind of details you are thinking about.

Stevens: Details will be in implementation plan.

Massey: What about emergency access, for example to rescue livestock?

Stevens: There are always exceptions for search and rescue, for life-threatening situations.

Harris: Cactus Park (north) is recommended for an SRMA; the draft plan proposes managing the Gibbler Mountain area for nonmotorized use, because there are no trails there now. Draft plan proposes managing Ninemile Hill for nonmotorized use. The Council advises to continue managing for mixed use.

Ewing: We were trying to round out the range of alternatives. We had alternatives that focused on nonmotorized use and some for mixed use, but none that would meet the demand we have heard for quiet use, so team decided we needed alternative for quiet use.

Stevens: That area is important for bighorn sheep production.

Ewing: The Preferred Alternative combines Ninemile Hill with Gunnison Slopes.

(There was a discussion of what the areas look like now on individual trails)

Neuhof: There aren't a lot of opportunities for single track quiet use up there, so a balanced approach would be to have more opportunities for quiet use. Given the County road and other motorized access into Ninemile Hill area, it does seem like the BLM's Preferred Alternative comes very close to Council recommendations. It allows for motorized access but balances for quiet users too.

Massey: There is a route for communication towers, etc.

Harris: For Gunnison Slopes, there really is no issue between the Advisory Council's recommendations and the BLM's Preferred Alternative. (Also discussed East Creek and Escalante Canyon). Escalante Canyon has watchable wildlife. People have the opportunity to see wildlife along Escalante Road. The Council is concerned about trespass. It would be helpful to find where boundary is to provide parking.

Doug Atchley: There is a lot of private property in Escalante Canyon.

Neuhof: The Colorado Canyons Association is looking for a place to take kids. Escalante Canyon is a great place to take them to learn about the NCA. The Preferred Alternative provides for this, but there are transportation issues.

Steele: There are two historical sites that the Advisory Council would like to see the BLM purchase and protect.

Massey: On 141, there have been deadly (for sheep) conflicts between motorized users and sheep. It needs pullouts.

Atchley: It would need funding to improve. It's a county road.

Minnick: Is this an opportunity to gain funding?

Atchley: The road runs through three counties. It's not designed for present use.

Ewing: It's a great place to see wildlife and to educate. Is that a place we should focus on working with the counties to improve?

Atchley: I'm just raising the issue that it isn't safe. The BLM should be aware of that.

Harris: Sawmill Mesa and Wagon Park are separate areas.

Atchley: Dry Mesa and Cottonwood [Canyon] are also separate.

Harris: Issue is to find boundaries. The map is not so good; the scale is too small. Signage is important.

Massey: It's a seasonal thing also.

Ewing: We're looking at those areas for mixed use, but maybe those areas should be managed differently. Those areas are geographically separate but are proposed for similar management.

(Ewing/Samantha Staley pointed out error on map in printed version that was rectified in electronic versions).

Steele: Maybe labeling is part of the problem.

Harris: (Finished presentation on Cottonwood Canyon).

Steele: Why are Cottonwood and Dry Fork SRMAs?

Ewing: They are managed as SRMAs targeting back country users. They are geographically separate but similarly large and don't have a lot of routes through them.

Public comments

Cathy Spencer: I live in Delta. You've been talking about trash being left on public land, but if it needs more regulations, you must realize the book is getting thicker and thicker on regulations.
Founding Fathers: The republic will not endure without a moral and religious people. We need to educate the people in the schools to be more religious and moral and to not leave trash.

Betty Oglesby: I've been working with Fred McKee, Sheriff of Delta County. He's written a letter to Collin Ewing (distributed letter and read letter [attached]). We are in favor of allowing target shooting in a larger area of the NCA. Smaller areas are not safe for target shooting.

Janice Shepherd: I ran into another geocacher on the Front Range. She had found 12,900 geocaches. She didn't know the name "Dominguez-Escalante" but knew geocaches there. People love geocaching. The concept in geocaching is cache in trash out (pick up trash on the way out); also to engage in other maintenance activities in conjunction with geocaching. (More discussion about trash, glass bottles, and how to manage). I like Alternative E's emphasis on quiet use. We're envisioning Hunting Ground as mixed use, so it's nice to have Ninemile Hill.

Jan Potterveld: We support Alternative E in Cottonwood Canyon and Dry Fork areas.

Steele: (Requested that commenters not give route-by-route comments but submit in writing to BLM for more accurate recording).

Chris Miller (with Western Colorado Interpretive Association): The Council mentioned historical sites in Escalante Canyon. We are working to get assessments on two cabins. Getting them designated will help us leverage dollars to do that work.

Eric Rechel: Wildlife needs wild places. I'm proud that in Alternative E, have reduced roads by 37%. Wildlife is impacted negatively by roads. In Sawmill Mesa area, have seasonal closures. Recommend final dates of closures be left up to the BLM to decide, depending on conditions. Desert bighorn sheep area up by Cactus Park overlaps with an SRMA. Has that been addressed? Shouldn't that be an ERMA to reduce impacts on bighorn sheep?

Craig Grother: I represent backcountry hunters and anglers, but I'm also interested in family outings or places to day hike. I'm supporting BLM's position on how to manage that piece of river. Duck hunting issue is a bit confusing to me. There are other opportunities to motor around and shoot ducks. Support leaving that as a quiet use area. Doesn't make sense to me to close the Dominguez Canyon campsites, because they're the best ones on the river. One of them is always occupied by commercial outfitter. Sounds like you're going to emphasize motorized and mixed use in Hunting Ground and Cactus Park. Given that, I think Cottonwood Canyon and Ninemile Hill should be kept for quiet users.

Unidentified member of the public: I think it is wonderful that there is such a thing as an NCA to allow for multiple uses. I definitely support multiple uses. I'm very convinced that the NCA has to have trails to support quiet use. Pleased to see that Alternative E supports that. I think seasonal closures are science-based, as applied by the BLM. If concerned about protecting species, seasonal closures will support that.

Kate Graham: I went with my mother on vacation recently. Usually, we go to national park campgrounds, but we went to Ninemile Hill, and she, as an inexperienced hiker, loved it. I'm pleased with treatment of Ninemile Hill in Preferred Alternative. I would also like facilities to support light backpacking. Where will the designated campsites be located? Off the motorized route would be ideal for light backpacking experience.

Spencer: Keep roads open for disabled.

4:30–4:45 p.m.: Break.

Council discussion: transportation and travel management

Steele: For transportation and travel management, commenters should focus on BLM's objectives. This topic is different from the others. This is how we try to protect purposes and still have access to our public lands. Implementation level management is more flexible; land use management is less flexible, so focus on that. (Read from plan and listed five land use areas. Read definitions of dead-end route (less than ½ mile long), redundant route, and other types of routes).

Stevens: The public is most interested in route-by-route decisions, in our travel system.

Ewing: The route system supports other resources, so we look at protecting resources and providing access to recreation. The route system is an implementation system and is intentionally flexible.

Steele: If you are looking at one particular route, look at overall objective.

Atchley: I see a new word: “upper” Sawmill Mesa. That’s not on map 2-13e.

Ewing/Windsor: Upper Sawmill Mesa is an elevational distinction.

Atchley: (Pointed out west Sawmill Mesa area on map 2-13a). Historically, from County’s perspective, that is upper Sawmill Mesa.

Steele: Can BLM get back to Council on differences in elevation?

Windsor: These are wildlife areas. This is winter range, based on CPW recommendations.

(More discussion of map labels)

Harris: Does County close part of the road seasonally to protect road bed?

Atchley: We don’t, because our section remains dry, but most of the road is not in Delta county; other counties do close upper reaches.

Ewing: I would like to revisit with CPW to make sure that the closures for wintering range are necessary.

Atchley: People go there in the winter, because in the summer you can’t carry enough water.

Steele: (Read definition of travel management). Page 888 describes the process to this point: inventory; public comments on routes, etc.

Ewing: For the inventory, the BLM sent a couple of guys on motorcycles to GPS all the routes. Also involved some hiking. We held a public meeting and comment period to see if the inventory was complete. We asked members of the public what routes they valued and for what uses. The BLM sat down with the Advisory Council and determined that we may want to close redundant and dead-end routes and those that might lead to trespass. Then we looked at how the routes are used, which we got from our recreation planner or through public comment. Then we looked at the resources and issues: cultural, wildlife, erosion, etc., and built a range of alternatives. Alternative C has high expectations for protecting resources; Alternative D focuses on recreation. Alternative E is a balance of those.

Steele: Areas are defined as open, closed, or limited. Then there is seasonal use and the specific type of use.

Ewing: Open means open to cross-country motorized and mechanized travel (we don’t have those because of the Act). And the Wilderness is closed, per the Wilderness Act. So the remainder is limited. In the Preferred Alternative, in Zone 1 of the Wilderness, even people on foot or horseback are limited to designated routes.

Steele: What about seasonal closures on maps 2-13c, d, and e?

Ewing: Areas are closed December 1 to April 30 to protect big game wintering range.

Windsor/Stevens: Administrative use is not affected if within the time frame of use agreement. Same for county roads. The longer time frame in Alternative C is because that alternative is focused on soil issue. The designation of an area as seasonal is fixed; the time frame for the seasonal closure is more flexible over life of plan.

Steele: (Raised public comment about people wanting mechanized and horse trail even though not in plan. Summarized contents of Pages 896 and 897). Advisory Council wanted temporary closures left open until funding and manpower were available to fix.

Ewing: Ones on map are closed until mitigated, because they had urgent enough concerns to close until BLM can mitigate. We can revisit that.

(More discussion about temporary closures).

Ewing: People should pay attention to and comment on the issues discussed on Page 905 [Priorities for Implementation and Administrative Route Implementation].

Steele: On Pages 903 and 904, look at the objectives before looking at miles.

Ewing: (Went over information on these pages, defining and explaining the terms). It's more important to look at roads and areas than simply mileages. Important to look at where BLM wants to put new routes.

Steele: Next page [904] gives route closures in miles.

Stevens: I want to emphasize that these are proposed closures. We want the public to comment on them.

Steele: (Addressing public attendees): Now is the time to comment if there is a route the BLM missed that is important to you.

Minnick: Why is it that in Alternative E, there are more routes open than in C or D?

Ewing/Stevens/Harris: Under Alternative D, we used a lot of SRMAs, and some, including the Hunting Ground, did not emphasize motorized use. Under E, there is more emphasis on mixed uses.

Steele: Functional class defines the importance of the route's function: i.e., collector or local road.

Neuhof: is there language that talks about route density that is specific to the alternatives?

Stevens/Windsor: The only place route density became a criterion was in the Hunting Ground in Alternative D, from the recreational setting perspective.

Staley: Our only biological criterion for route density is in the Gibbler Mountain ACEC in Alternative C, in which we simply aim to reduce route density. We did not identify quantitative objectives for route density, nor did our impact analysis address route density in a quantitative way. We just note that in general, reduced route density from route closures is generally good for wildlife.

Stevens/Ewing/Staley: There was a map at the open houses that covers/explains this. This map is not in the plan. [NOTE: Map is on the [NCA website](#); type "denca draft rmp open houses" in browser search box to get to the website, then click on the wildlife station].

Neuhof: A ceiling on densities could help people plan for future trails.

(More discussion on the uses of route density analysis).

Steele: Again, it's important to look at the BLM's objectives when commenting on the draft RMP.

Ewing: A valuable comment considers the resource objectives, the designation process, or cites individual routes. It's important to review appendix N guidance and comment on that as well. Remember that the travel system supports all the other resources. (Summarized issues in Appendix N and said those are all up for comments).

Public comments

Chris Miller: (Passed out material [see attachment and link below] and described project that borders NCA). Our Unawep-Tabeguache Corridor Management Plan wants to maintain the integrity of heritage resources. Want to have short drives in support of this scenic byway. Cactus Park limits that. Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) said they have a lot of rights of way (ROWs) there. (Discussed property owned by Massey where CDOT has a ROW and CDOT's desire to change that for safety reasons). Hope that Mesa County would support. Ninemile Hill has public access and water. Maintained from northern to southern end.

Harris: Has signage?

Chris Miller: No signage. Recommend that the BLM considers adding value to current signs by saying there's a restroom, etc. Want to encourage new people to use, so have to give that additional information. There are [several] scenic byways, six rivers, a national park, three

NCA, and the national monument here. We are part of a bigger system than just the NCA, so we have to market accordingly.

Massey: (Asked question about road not being maintained).

Chris Miller: We want to put pressure on the County by using road so they will better maintain it.

Shepherd: I see lot of little toddlers on Micah Mine trail, because there are no horses (that dramatic drop keeps horses out). The BLM needs to think about foot-only trails. For users looking for a challenge, a trail over rocks is good and also has no horses. There is also an opportunity to improve interpretive signs to bring in new technology so that younger folks have a better experience.

Potterveld: Zone 1: Look at modifying description to allow some of points I made Monday. Access is an issue.

Graham: (Discussed some issues that followed-up to closing of last Council meeting).

Grother: I am also a wildlife biologist and have had a career with the US Forest Service. We reduced open route densities. It's important to have some sort of maximum in these open wildlife areas, because that works. Seasonal restrictions also really do work. Closing areas after seeding, etc., really does work. Motorized use displaces elk and can displace them onto private land, where most landowners don't want them to be.

Chris Miller: CDOT has identified areas to have wireless hotspots.

Dick Miller: I am the landowner probably most affected by NCA and Wilderness. If I had understood ramifications of Wilderness Study Area, I wouldn't have bought property. Escalante Canyon has become thoroughfare. Traffic's bad; road's bad. No increase in road maintenance. All those promised BLM dollars must have gone somewhere else. Elk doing damage, so maybe no need to protect elk. (More description of road damage). Looks like there's some missing thought in plan. As for the closure of roads that dead-end on private property, ask that BLM make sure that those closures don't affect our operations, as they have with the Forest Service plan. Extra burdens placed on us due to NCA and Wilderness. Ask BLM to take landowners' needs into account.

Massey: The BLM needs to listen to what Dick said. Maybe widening of the Escalante Road would help. No maintenance done on certain key spots. It's steep and very dangerous and quite a few wrecks have happened there. (Discussion of Wilderness and how it affected the ability of the landowner to install a well and the feasibility of putting in a road).

Stevens: There are limits on what we can do in Wilderness, but there are some things we can do in Escalante Canyon.

(More discussion of attempted well construction and damaged route leading into Big Dominguez).

Steele: I mean no disrespect to Oscar, but there is nothing the Council can do to address that particular situation. Oscar and maybe Dick need to sit down with Katie (Stevens).

Dale Kimber: BLM wants to manage everything but not maintain anything.

Final remarks

Steele: This is the last public meeting before the end of comment period. (Discussion of when another meeting could occur to talk about seasonal closures and other issues that the Council could use more information on). Thanks to Council members, BLM staff, and the public for their hard work and dedication.

(Applause)

Meeting adjournment

6:03 p.m. Steele adjourned the meeting.

Attachments and handout link:

- Letter from Delta County Sheriff Fred McKee to Collin Ewing
- Letter from Interpretive Association of Western Colorado to Advisory Council
- [Uncompahgre Valley Public Lands Camping Guide](#) (hard copies are available from the Uncompahgre Field Office headquarters at 2465 South Townsend Avenue in Montrose, CO); handed out by Chris Miller.

Delta County Sheriff's Office

555 Palmer St - PO Box 172 - Delta, CO 81416-1796
(970) 874-2000 Fax (970) 874-2027

F. D. McKee
Sheriff

M. L. Taylor
Undersheriff

August 12, 2013

Colin Ewing
NCA Manager
Dominquez-Escalante NCA
Bureau of Land Management
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

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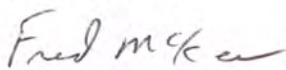
Dear Mr. Ewing,

Several Delta county citizens have contacted my office regarding the restriction of firearm use in large areas of the Dominquez-Escalante NCA. I agree with them that the restrictions on federal lands are not necessary, with the exception of in and around public camp grounds or other areas where the public may regularly gather.

I have been with the Delta County Sheriff's Office for twenty-two years and cannot recall any shooting accidents occurring while target practicing on public lands. I do believe that if we start forcing people into smaller areas to use their firearms, accidents will more likely occur and restricting traditional hunting and shooting areas without documented problems will do nothing to promote safety.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at 970-874-2000 or by email at fmckee@deltacounty.com

Respectfully,


Sheriff Fred McKee



Interpretive Association of Western Colorado
2250 Hwy 50
Delta, CO 81416

August 21, 2013

To the Dominguez-Escalante Citizen Advisory Council,

The Interpretive Association of Western Colorado was founded in 1988 as a non-profit organization to assist the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other government agencies in scientific, educational, historical, and interpretive activities of the resource areas in western Colorado. In this capacity we primarily work to secure and administer project-based grants which preserve, protect and interpret the cultural heritage and natural attributes in an eight county region of Western Colorado. Two specific, and recent, projects of relevance to the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area are as follows:

- In cooperation with CDOT we secured the funding needed to update the 1995 Corridor Management Plan for the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. (Hwy 141 & 145) In this process we worked closely with CDOT, US Forest Service and BLM to identify appropriate visitor access points to public lands and roadside pullovers for interpretive signage. In working with CDOT we identified the need for advanced signage for access onto public lands.
- In cooperation with Colorado Parks & Wildlife we were successful in getting the Escalante Homesteading Cabins and Gunnison Water Wheel which are all located in D-E NCA designated to Colorado Preservation, Inc. 2013 list "Most Endangered Places" a designation which can be leveraged to secure funds for structural preservation and on-site interpretation.

In addition to its historical and educational significance, our work is important from an economic perspective as it is directly tied to the development and promotion of our region's growing Heritage Tourism economy.

As noted in "The Economic Power of Heritage and Place: How Historic Preservation is Building a Sustainable Future in Colorado" (prepared for the Colorado Historical Foundation by Clarion Associates of Colorado, LLC; October 2011; available at www.historycolorado.org):

Surveys consistently show that visitors to Colorado are especially drawn to destinations with historic character and attractions that are interesting and authentic. Visitors with these types of interests generally stay longer and spend more money in the state than other tourists. As a result, heritage tourism has become a major economic generator, providing significant income and thousands of jobs across the state.

- *Longwoods International's Colorado Travel Year 2008 Visitor Study reports that Colorado's heritage tourists spent approximately **\$244 million on cultural and historic activities** (\$190 million on cultural activities and \$54 million on historic activities).*
 - *Heritage tourists spent an average of \$447 in total expenditures, whereas all overnight leisure visitors spent on average \$333 in total expenditures, a difference of **\$114**.*
 - *Heritage tourists are also more likely than other visitors to come from out of state, [i.e.: new dollars into communities] and their trips generally last longer in duration than typical overnight leisure trips - an average of **5.8 nights away from home compared to 5.2 nights**.*

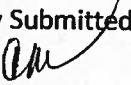
With these projects, and our broader emphasis on Heritage Tourism in mind, we would like to offer the following recommendations to the Advisory Council regarding recreation and travel planning within the unit's Resource Management Plan.

NCA Portals: Access, Interpretation & Marketing

- Access –
 - Ninemile Hill County Road - Open to all modes of travel (County maintained and vested interest routes) provide primary public access to the Ninemile Hill Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) and the Cactus Park Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), both of which are likely to be some of most popular visitor destinations for Byway travelers within the NCA. And while we are very pleased with both of these RMAs as outlined in the preferred alternative and their provision, to Byway travelers, of nearby and varied, off-byway opportunities - from hiking and horseback riding, to jeeping and ATVing - we do have some concerns about the status of the county roads via which these RMAs are accessible. Neither Cactus Park nor Ninemile Hill Rds are passable by all vehicles, effectively limiting public access to public lands and public facilities. To this end, we recently met, on-site, with Stacy Mascarina, (Mesa County, Real Estate ROA Agent) Andy Windsor (BLM) and Otis Darnell (Mesa County Maintenance Manager).

- Cactus Park Road:
 - It was agreed that there is an opportunity to re-engineer the road and make it a T intersection and safer public access. While the road is owned by the County it does cross private property (Oscar Massey owns 1.5 ac just east of CDOT ROA, Parcel Report attached to emailed submission). It was agreed that Mesa County would get in touch with CDOT and do a physical assessment of the Cactus Park Road and the first 500 feet off Highway 141.
 - In my email to the Council I have attached maps showing the proposed new road into D-E NCA. We would like see Mesa County provide in-kind engineering and planning services to come up with a cost-estimate for the project. This would enable the appropriate entity to apply for Map 21 and or GOCO funding to get the new road constructed.
- Ninemile Hill Road:
 - It was confirmed that the road is a designated, and maintained, County Road with public access from the northern entrance near Whitewater, to the southern entrance off the Byway just north of Cactus Park. As evident via the image submitted via email, the route has not seen recent maintenance its northern end, an issue which needs to be addressed by the County.
- Interpretation & Marketing –
 - While updating the Byway's Corridor Management Plan, we also identified an immense opportunity to market this Byway as a loop by connecting its primary portals (Montrose and Grand Junction) via off-site interpretive signage of the Old Spanish Trail along Highway 50 were it flanks the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. To this end we are pleased to see that 'off-site' signage such as this is included as a management action in the preferred alternative of BLM's draft plan for the D-E NCA.
 - We also identified the need for improved facilities signage at NCA portals. We consider this an added value to the signs already installed. For example, sign the unit's designation as an NCA but include recreation symbols for restrooms, parking facilities, rafting, camping, etc. With finalization of the plan there will likely be additional locations which receive these improvements and there will

most certainly be the codification of trail heads. From a marketing and public relations perspective IAWC would recommend that BLM install icons along the base of the current (and very attractive) NCA signs which indicate the presence of these public facilities. Not only will this inform the public about the opportunities which exist on these public lands, but as well these additions would showcase to the public how their tax dollars are being invested to improve recreation facilities on public lands.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Miller 
Executive Director

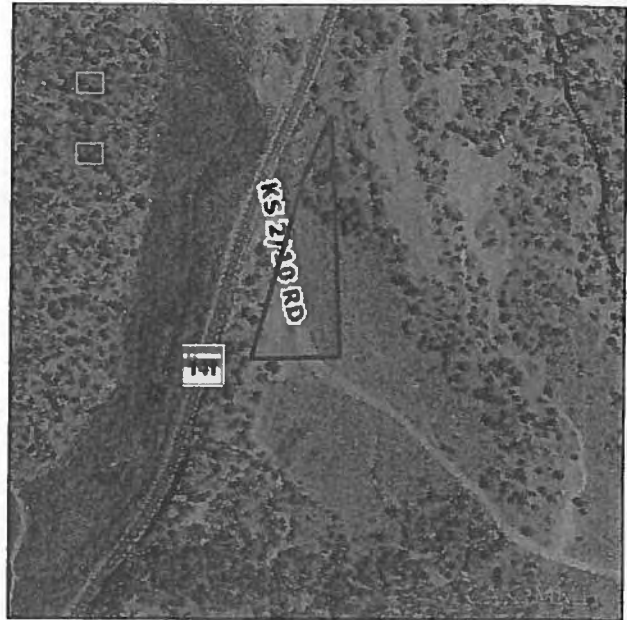
**Mesa County
Assessors Office**

P.O. Box 20000
544 Rood Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Report Date: 8/15/2013

Property Information

Parcel Num.: 3207-364-00-022
 Account Num.: R077969
 Location:
 Mailing Add.: 14011 HIGHWAY 141
 WHITEWATER, CO 81527-9711
 Owner MASSEY OSCAR T
 Joint Owner: MASSEY JANICE M
 Neighborhood: AREA 31 (31.00)
 Assoc. Parcel:
 Title Status:
 Property Use: Agricultural
 Ac.(Unofficial): 1.543
 Lat/Lon: 38.87730159, -108.50923629



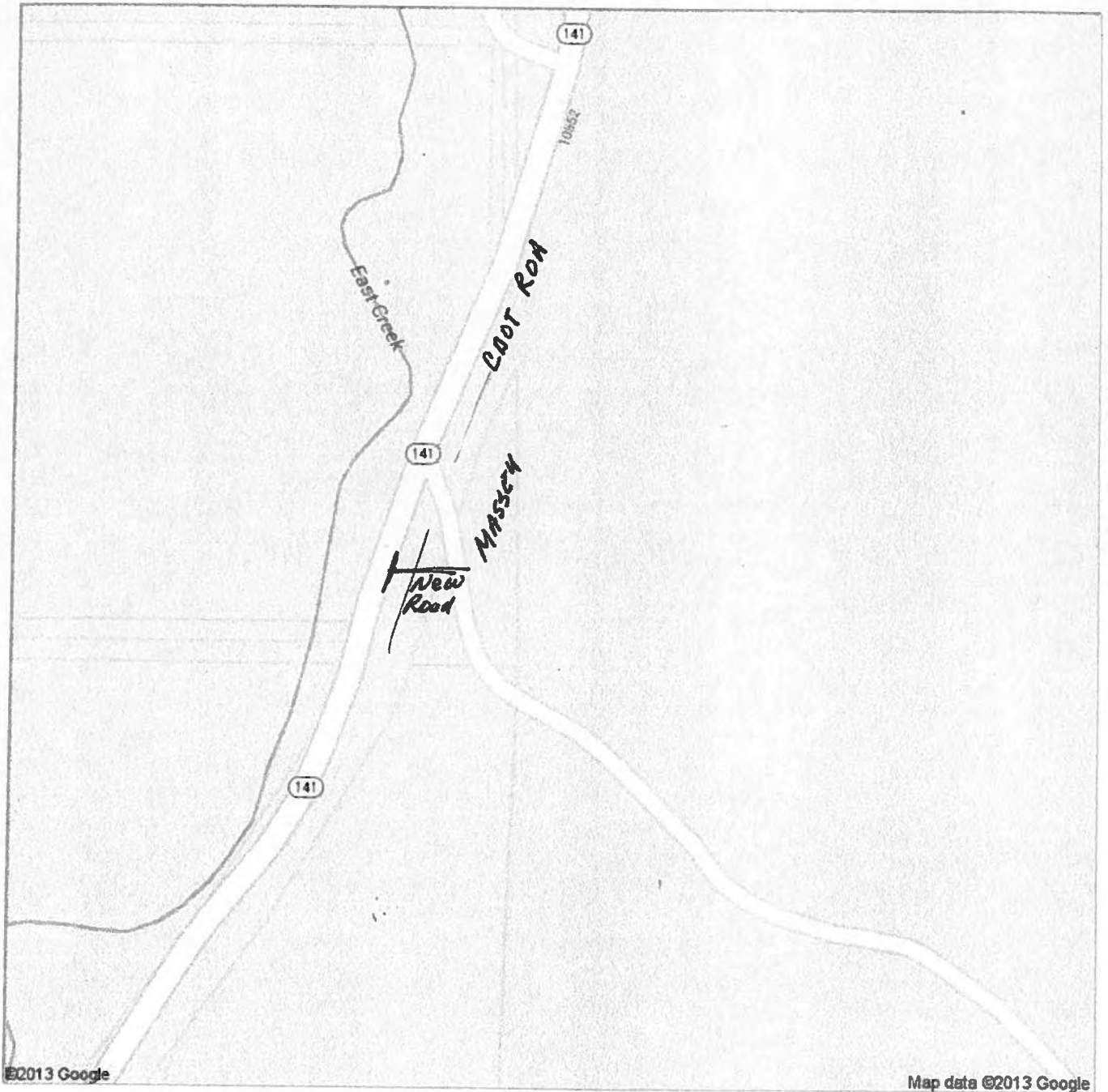
Air Photography Date: 2012

Legal Sum.: THAT PT OF N2SE4 SEC 36 13S 100W LYG EAST OF STATE HWY 141

Tax Information											
Year	Prop Code	Imp. (Actual)	Land (Actual)	Total (Actual)	Imp. (Assd.)	Land (Assd.)	Total (Assd.)	TAC Code	Mill Levy	Special Tax	Tax
2013	4147	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	13410		\$0.00	*\$1.13
2012	4147	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	13410	0.056617	\$0.00	\$0.56
2011	4147	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	13410	0.055324	\$0.00	\$0.56

***Current Estimated Tax is Using Previous Year's Mill Levy (Mill Levy Determined in December of Current Year)**

Taxing Authority Detail						
Year	Agency Abbrev.	Agency Name	TAC Code	Mill Levy	Total (Assessed)	Tax Per Agency
2012	COLRW	COLORADO RIVER WATER	13410	0.2420	\$20.00	\$0.00484
2012	MCCCB	COUNTY - DEVELOP DISABLED	13410	0.2740	\$20.00	\$0.00548
2012	MCGF	COUNTY GENERAL FUND	13410	9.5770	\$20.00	\$0.19154
2012	MCR_B	COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE-FULL LEVY	13410	0.4430	\$20.00	\$0.00886
		COUNTY				



Google

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.



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County - 34 2/10 Rd
Ninemile Ad.